

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Please substitute the enclosed drawing sheet on which reference numeral 132 has been added to Fig. 1.

The specification has been amended as requested by the Examiner.

In response to the Section 112 rejection of the claims, most of the issues identified by the Examiner have been addressed by amendments to the claims. Regarding the limitation “metal/soft component/metal,” reconsideration is respectfully requested. The meaning of this limitation is clear to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of the specification. See the description on page 4, lines 16-19.

Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Also, the Section 112 issues have been addressed and “and/or” has been changed to “or.” Claim 3 and dependent claims 4, 5, 9, 10 and 23 are therefore allowable.

Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Also, the Section 112 issues have been addressed. Claim 6 and dependent claims 7, 8, 11 and 22 are therefore allowable.

New claim 16 is the same as claim 3 but with “and” instead of “or.” Claim 16 and dependent claims 17-21 are therefore allowable.

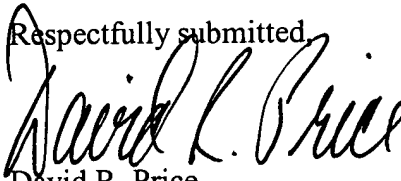
New claim 12 includes the limitations of original claim 1, a variation of the limitations of original claim 2, and additional limitations. Claim 12 specifies an external rotor motor with a stator 11 and a rotor 13, which surrounds the stator 11 while leaving an air gap 14, wherein at least one damper 16' that is composed at least partially of an elastic material is arranged on the outside of the rotor 13, characterized in that the damper 16' comprises a damping ring surrounding the rotor 13 on the outer periphery of the rotor, and characterized in that the damper is made of a hybrid material in which a damping soft component is arranged between two metal rings.

This construction is not suggested by the cited references. It is questionable whether any damper function at all can be attributed to the component 18 in the arrangement from Sakashita et al. The damper 16' of claim 12 that surrounds the rotor 13 on the outer periphery is composed of a hybrid

material which is constructed in layers. In particular, the damper 16' has a soft component, e.g., an elastic material, between two metallic layers and this elastic material assumes the damping function. This is not suggested by the cited references.

Accordingly, claim 12 and dependent claims 2 and 13-15 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, entry of the above amendment and allowance of claims 2 through 23 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Price
Reg. No. 31,557

Docket No.: 081276-1029-00
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
100 East Wisconsin Avenue
Suite 3300
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4108
414.271.6560